



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

**County of Los Angeles**  
**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**  
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**Monterey Park, California 91754-2169**



May 4, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OVERTIME REPORT BACK**

This correspondence is in response to your Board's March 16, 2010, request for a bi-weekly status report on the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department's (Department) overtime curtailment efforts and its impact on Department operations.

The Department has maintained its successful efforts to dramatically reduce overtime expenditures in order to reduce \$128 million from our budget by June 30, 2011. The overtime expenditure for the current reporting period, March 16, 2010, through March 31, 2010, totaled \$2,345,085. This figure is slightly lower than the previous reporting period and represents an impressive 59 percent reduction in overtime spending as compared to the half-monthly average accrued in the first eight months of Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10.

The Department is making every effort to minimize the effect the overtime curtailment has on the public. However, we are experiencing operational impacts which hamper the overall efficiency of our law enforcement mission. Examples of the impacts experienced since the last reporting period include:

- Aero Bureau reports, during the first two weeks of April 2010, 164 requests for air support from patrol units went unanswered due to a lack of available overtime funding.
- Investigators assigned to station detective bureaus continue to fulfill a major role within the Cadre of Administrative Reserve Personnel (CARP), as they are pulled away from their regular duties to fill line positions in lieu of paying overtime. This

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reduces the amount of time spent investigating cases and results in an ever growing backlog of open cases. The number of open cases assigned to station detective bureaus stood at 6,055 on February 28, 2010. That number increased to 9,222 by April 15, 2010. This is a 52 percent increase since the beginning of our current overtime reduction effort.

- Most of the Department's specialized detective units, such as the Homicide and Special Victims Bureaus, report delays in scheduling witness interviews, conducting photo line-ups, and conducting investigative follow-up due to the inability of investigators to work beyond 40-hours per week.
- Evidence processing at the Department's drug laboratories is being hampered by the inability to utilize overtime funds. The result is a backlog in Narcotics Bureau cases at each laboratory site at least 2.4 times higher than the average backlog in 2009. For example, the average number of unprocessed Narcotics Bureau cases at the Century Regional Crime Laboratory in 2009 was 80. Currently it stands at 194, a dramatic 143 percent increase. The delay in processing this evidence jeopardizes the laboratory's ability to meet court deadlines, results in an increase in rush cases which have to be handled immediately, and disrupts the normal flow and efficiency of the laboratory's operations.
- The Los Angeles Regional Crime Information System (LARCIS) is used by investigators and crime analysts to track crime trends and identify possible patterns or suspects. The County's hiring freeze and overtime reduction efforts resulted in too few clerks available to complete the timely entry of this critical data. On February 28, 2010, there were 1,010 crime reports whose data had not yet been entered into the system. As of April 15, 2010, that number had reached 4,659, an increase of 361 percent.
- The Operation Safe Streets (OSS) Team assigned to Compton Sheriff's Station reports a backlog of Field Incident Reports awaiting entry into the CalGangs database. The prompt entry of these reports is essential to keep abreast of the emergence of new gangs, and to track the activity and location of gang members. As of April 11, 2010, the number of reports which needed to be entered into the system from Compton OSS exceeded 1,000.

The amount of time it takes for a patrol unit to respond to a call for service is influenced by many factors including: call volume, the complexity of the service required, the responding deputy's experience and familiarity with the service area, and the physical distance between calls. Any combination of these factors can increase or decrease response times. Fluctuations in response times are to be expected, based upon the conditions in effect at the time a call is received. Although the Department's response time to calls for service has increased since undertaking our overtime reduction efforts,

the increase remains relatively unchanged between the current and previous reporting periods.

- The average response time to an emergency call for service in calendar year 2009, was 4.9 minutes. The average response time to emergency calls from April 1, 2010, through April 15, 2010, was 5.1 minutes, an increase of 4 percent. The increase in the unincorporated County areas rose from 5.5 minutes to 6.0 minutes, a 9 percent increase.
- Response times to routine calls for service increased from an average of 39.6 minutes in 2009, to 45.4 minutes during the first two weeks of April, an increase of 15 percent.

These economic times require all of us to make difficult decisions regarding the best way to allocate limited resources. We will continue our efforts to meet our budgetary obligations while minimizing the impacts to the communities we serve.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Division Director Victor Rampulla, Administrative Services Division, at (323) 526-5357.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry L. Waldie".

LARRY L. WALDIE  
UNDERSHERIFF